

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

There are no outstanding formal matters.

The claims have, however, been amended as to form.

New claims are added which are based on prior claims. New claims are also introduced based on the specification disclosure found on page 7: "Instantaneous evaporation of the water occurs at low temperature and makes it possible to control the internal pressure of the heat exchanger. This pressure will be the lowest possible for an evaporation temperature less than or equal to 70°C. The steam generated will be extracted mechanically by a dedicated compressor." No new matter is introduced.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-13 were rejected under section 103 as obvious over ARTHUR 5,115,184.

Claim 2 was rejected in further view of METALMANN 4,789,991.

Claim 9 was rejected in further view of GUYER 6,053,418.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Please see the attached Declaration which clearly states that ARTHUR does not make the disclosure for which ARTHUR has been offered.

The Official Action states that ARTHUR includes means for maintaining the water spraying zone under negative pressure, referring to "col. 7, lines 11-13 via vacuum; and inherent that

cooling the bottom wall would yield a negative pressure based on the decreasing temperature of the delimited area".

The Official Action misreads column 7, lines 11-13 and speculates as to the effect of the spent coolant 36 being removed from the interior of outer cover 18 by vacuum or pump means. Applicant points out that it is not inherent that the vacuum or pump means that removes spent coolant will maintain a negative pressure within the water spraying zone.

In this regard, with respect to claim 8, the Official Action states that the pump removing spent coolant would be capable of extracting some steam. Again, this is speculative.

As to claim 7, applicant does not see that column 4, lines 14-20 discloses the recited feature of the cooling water (4) contained in the network of tubes (1) is maintained at a temperature less than or equal to 60°C. Withdrawal of this rejection is solicited. In the alternative, a specific explanation of how this passage satisfies the recitation is requested.

As to claim 9, applicant does not see that column 3, line 66 - column 4, line 3 teaches the recited feature of the steam-extracting system (10) comprised of a compressor to compress said extracted steam and inject the compressed steam into a dedicated exchanger unit so that said compressed steam acquires a temperature and a pressure suitable for power co-generation. Withdrawal of this rejection is solicited. In the

alternative, a specific explanation of how this passage satisfies the recitation is requested.

In any event, the claims have been amended to clearly distinguish over the prior art.

As to the new claims, neither ARTHUR alone, or in combination with either or both or METALMANN and GUYER teach or suggest the newly recited combination of features.

Neither ARTHUR alone, or in combination with either or both or METALMANN and GUYER teach the system of claim 1, wherein, the system for maintaining the negative pressure within the water spraying zone (6) comprises a steam-extraction system (10) located in an vertically uppermost part of the water spraying zone and extracts steam from the upper part of the water spraying zone, and the steam-extracting system (10) comprises a compressor to compress said extracted steam and inject the compressed steam into a dedicated exchanger unit so that said compressed steam acquires a temperature and a pressure suitable for power co-generation.

Neither ARTHUR alone, or in combination with either or both or METALMANN and GUYER teach the system of claim 1, wherein, the system for maintaining the negative pressure within the water spraying zone (6) comprises a steam-extraction system (10) located in an vertically upper part of the water spraying zone and extracts steam from the upper part of the water spraying zone.

Neither ARTHUR alone, or in combination with either or both or METALMANN and GUYER teach the system of claim 18, the system comprising a water spraying zone located between the inner and outer walls and maintained at a negative pressure; and a steam-extraction system located in a vertically upper part of the water spraying zone and configured for maintaining the negative pressure within the water spraying zone by extracting steam from within the upper part of the water spraying zone and compressing the extracted steam, the negative pressure regulated for an evaporation of the sprayed cooling water at low temperature.

Neither ARTHUR alone, or in combination with either or both or METALMANN and GUYER teach the claimed system/method with the low temperature of less than or equal to 70°C.

In summary, the presently presented claims are believed to be both novel and non-obvious over the prior art in general and over the applied references in particular.

Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr. Reg. No. 41,949
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/fb